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HISTORY

be confirmed in the bill of succession. Hee had no mind to confirme them, but the condition of his affayres overruled his inclinations in it/ He held the attempt to revive the Triennial Act untimely, and fought throughout against any bill of the kind.¹

Quite apart from all this, William had personal objections to the leaders of the extreme Whigs in the Convention. He declared ' young Mr. Hampbden was mad ', and that he would send him to Spain as ambassador to be rid of him. As for Jack Howe, he ' had said that, for which, if hee was not king, hee must either fight, with him or cudgell him/ ² He had no better opinion of the Lords who were the Whig leaders in the Upper House. Of Mordaunt, Earl of Monmouth, William observed that ' the more one knew him, the more objection one had to him/ and of the Duke of Bolton, that he was mad, though he ' had great influence upon the House of Commons \³

William had an equally low opinion of the Tory leaders, with one or two exceptions. His wife's two uncles, Clarendon and Rochester, he briefly described as a couple of knaves. Nottingham he termed ' an honest man ', but he seemed to have doubts about Danby. ' For Lord Nottingham hee dealt plainly with him, but for Lord Danby, hee knew not what to make of him/ Halifax notes that Wil-

liam ' ever shewed an inclination to Lord
Godolphin ', and
thought him ' a very honest man '.⁴

This confidence in Godolphin and
Nottingham the King
retained throughout his reign. Nottingham
continued to
be Secretary of State until December 1693,
and William
parted with him much against his will. He
had to do it to

¹ Halifax, ii. 221, 203, 205, 217, 244.

²Macaulay, III, 1336 (xi). ³ Halifax, ii. 204, 229, 245,
226.

⁴ Ibid. pp. 202, 206, 205, 242.